

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claim 1 (previously presented): A printing system in which a host device and at least one of a plurality of printers are connected via a communication medium and a print job produced in said host device is transferred to the printer to execute printing, comprising:

memory means in which paper output place information on the paper output place used in the print job is registered;

requisition means for issuing a request of paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user;

retrieval means for retrieving the paper output place information on the designated print job from said memory means; and

information means for informing the user of the paper output place information on the designated print job, obtained by said retrieval means, in response to issuance of the request by said requisition means,

wherein said information means enables to inhibit informing the user of the paper output place information when a request is not issued by said requisition means, and

wherein said information means enables to inform the user of information by which the user can confirm which paper output place of which printer is

used for the designated print job, when the request is issued by said requisition means in a case where plural printers are present in said printing system.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A printing system according to claim 1, further comprising:

detection means for detecting papers stacked on the paper output place of said printer; and

elimination means for eliminating information on the print job having used the corresponding paper output place from said memory means when said detection means detects that papers have been removed from the paper output place.

Claim 3 (original): A printing system according to claim 1, wherein said memory means or said retrieval means is provided in said printer.

Claim 4 (original): A printing system according to claim 1, wherein said memory means or said retrieval means is provided in said host device.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A method for controlling a printing system in which a host device and at least one of a plurality of printers are connected via a communication medium and a print job produced in the host device is transferred to the printer to execute printing, said method comprising the steps of:

registering in memory means paper output place information on the paper output place used in the print job;

issuing a request of paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user;

retrieving the paper output place information on the designated print job from the memory means; and

informing the user of the paper output place information on the designated print job, obtained in said retrieving step, in response to issuance of the request in said requisition step,

wherein said information informing step includes enabling inhibition of informing the user of the paper output place information when a request is not issued by performance of said issuing step, and

wherein said information informing step includes enabling to inform the user of information by which the user can confirm which paper output place of which printer is used for the designated print job, when the request is issued in said issuing step in a case where plural printers are present in the printing system.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method for controlling a printing system according to claim 5, further comprising the step of eliminating information on the print job that has used the corresponding paper output place from the memory means when papers have been removed from the paper output place of the printer.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method for controlling a printing system according to claim 5, wherein said registration step or said retrieval step is performed in the printer.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A method for controlling a printing system according to claim 5, wherein said registration step or said step retrieving is performed in the host device.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium which stores a control program for a printing system in which a host device and at least one of a plurality of printers are connected via a communication medium and a print job produced in the host device is transferred to the printer to execute printing, said program comprising:

code for registering in memory means paper output place information on the paper output place used in the print job;

code for issuing a request of paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user;

code for retrieving the paper output place information on the designated print job from the memory means; and

code for informing the user of the paper output place information on the designated print job, obtained in said retrieval step, in response to issuance of the request in said requisition step,

wherein said information informing step includes enabling inhibition of informing the user of the paper output place information when a request is not issued by performance of said issuing step, and

wherein said information informing step includes enabling to inform the user of information by which the user can confirm which paper output place of which printer is used for the designated print job, when the request is issued in said issuing step in a case where plural printers are present in the printing system.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A memory medium according to claim 9, further comprising code for eliminating information on the print job that has used the corresponding paper output place from the memory means when papers have been removed from the paper output place of the said printer.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A memory medium according to claim 9, wherein said registration step or said retrieval step is performed in the printer.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A memory medium according to claim 9, wherein said registration step or said retrieval step is performed in the host device.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method for performing a print process on a print job by a printing system which includes at least one of a plurality of printers including a printer having a print unit and plural sheet storage units, said method comprising:

a request step, of issuing a request of storage unit specifying information for enabling a user to specify the sheet storage unit used for a designated print job, designated based on a user's operation, according to an instruction from the user; and

a notification step, of notifying the user of the storage unit specifying information corresponding to the designated print job, in response to the issuance of the request in said request step,

wherein said notification step includes enabling a notification of information including information by which the user can confirm which sheet storage unit of which printer is used for the designated print job, when the request is issued by performance of said request step in a case where plural printers are present in the printing system.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 13, further comprising a storage step, of storing, in a memory unit, the storage unit specifying information of each print job capable of performing management concerning which print job uses which sheet storage unit,

wherein, in said notification step, the user is notified of the storage unit specifying information corresponding to the designated print job in response to the issuance of the request in said request step, through a retrieval process for retrieving the storage unit specifying information corresponding to the designated print job requested in said request step from among the plural storage unit specifying information stored in the memory unit.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 14, wherein the storage process of the storage unit specifying information in said storage step is performed by the printer.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 14, wherein the storage process of the storage unit specifying information in said storage step is performed by a host device capable of transmitting a print job to the printer.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 13, wherein the issue of the request of the storage unit specifying information in said request step is performed by a host device capable of communicating with the printer.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 17, wherein execution of said request step causes at least any of plural units including an application unit, a utility unit, a printer driver unit and an interface driver unit of the host device to generate inquiry data based on the request.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the inquiry data is composed of plural data including command data for instructing an inquiry concerning the storage unit and job data for specifying the job.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 17, wherein said notification step includes notifying a user of the host device of the storage unit

specifying information, by causing a display unit of the host device to display the storage unit specifying information in response to the issuance of the request through the host device in said request step.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 17, wherein the issuance of the request of the storage unit specifying information in said request step can be performed through another device, different from the host device.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 21, wherein said notification step includes notifying a user of the another device of the storage unit specifying information, by causing a display unit of the another device to display the storage unit specifying information in response to the issuance of the request through the another device in said request step.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 21, wherein the printer, the host device and the another device may mutually communicate through a network.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 13, wherein said request step includes issuing the request of the storage unit specifying information for enabling the user to specify the sheet storage unit used for the designated print job, designated based on the user's operation, from among the plural sheet storage units of the



plural printers including the printer and another printer, according to the instruction from the user, and

said notification step includes notifying the user of the storage unit specifying information for enabling the user to specify the sheet storage unit used for the designated print job from among the plural sheet storage units of the plural printers including the printer and the another printer, according to the issue of the request in said request step.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 13, wherein said notification step includes notifying the user of the storage unit specifying information according to the issuance of the request in said request step, within at least a period from print completion of the designated print job to removal completion of the sheet for the designated print job from the sheet storage unit.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A printing system which includes at least one of a plurality of printers including a printer having a print unit for performing a print process on a print job and plural sheet storage units, comprising:

request means for issuing a request of storage unit specifying information for enabling a user to specify the sheet storage unit used for a designated print job, designated based on a user's operation, according to an instruction from the user; and

notification means for notifying the user of the storage unit specifying information corresponding to the designated print job, in response to the issuance of the request by said request means,

wherein said notification means enables a notification of information including information by which the user can confirm which sheet storage unit of which printer is used for the designated print job, when the request is by said request means in a case where plural printers are present in the printing system.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A method for for performing a print process on a print job by a printing system which includes at least one of a plurality of printers including a printer having a print unit and plural sheet storage units, said method comprising:

a request input step, of inputting a request of storage unit specifying information for enabling a user to specify the sheet storage unit used for a designated print job, designated based on a user's operation, the request being issued according to an instruction from the user; and

a response output step, of outputting the storage unit specifying information to be notified to the user and corresponding to the designated print job, when the request data is input in said request input step,

wherein said response output step includes enabling output of information including information by which the user can discriminate which sheet storage unit of which printer is used for the designated print job, when the request data is input in said request input step in a case where plural printers are present in the printing system.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 27, further comprising a print step, of causing the print unit to print on a sheet image data of a data storage unit capable of storing plural data.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 28, wherein the sheet storage unit includes a unit for storing the sheet on which the image data has been printed by the print unit.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 28, further comprising a storage step, of causing the data storage unit to store current job information concerning the job being printed by the print unit.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 28, further comprising a storage step, of causing the data storage unit to store information concerning the job which has been already printed by the print unit.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 27, wherein image data based on data output by a computer is printed on a sheet.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 32, wherein said response output step includes outputting the information to the computer.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 27, further comprising a display step, of causing a display unit to perform a display based on the information output in said response output step.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A printing system which includes at least one of a plurality of printers including a printer having a print unit for performing a print process on a print job and plural sheet storage units, said system comprising:

a request input unit, adapted to input a request of storage unit specifying information for enabling a user to specify the sheet storage unit used for a designated print job, designated based on a user's operation, the request being issued according to an instruction from the user; and

a response output unit, adapted to output the storage unit specifying information to be notified to the user and corresponding to the designated print job, when the request data is input by said request input unit,

wherein said response output unit enables output of information including information by which the user can discriminate which sheet storage unit of which printer is used for the designated print job, when the request data is input by said request input unit in a case where the plural printers are present in said printing system.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 13, wherein said notification step includes enabling to notify the user of the information by which the user can discriminate a job name of the designated print job and the information by which

the user can discriminate which discharge port of which printer is used for the designated print job, through a character data display by a display unit.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 13, wherein said notification step includes enabling to notify the user of the information by which the user can discriminate which discharge port is used for the designated print job, through an image data display or an icon data display by a display unit.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 13, further comprising a job designation step, of designating a job as the designated job.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 38, wherein said job designation step inputs any one of plural search data including at least any one of user name data, job name data and printer IP address data, for designating the job.

Claims 40-48 (canceled)

Claim 49 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium which stores a control program for a printing system which includes at least one of a plurality of printers including a printer having a print unit for performing a print process on a print job and plural sheet storage units, said program comprising:

code for a request step, of issuing a request of storage unit specifying information for enabling a user to specify the sheet storage unit used for a designated print job, designated based on a user's operation, according to an instruction from the user; and

code for a notification step, of notifying the user of the storage unit specifying information corresponding to the designated print job, in response to the issuance of the request in said request step,

wherein said notification step includes enabling a notification of information including information by which the user can confirm which sheet storage unit of which printer is used for the designated print job, when the request is issued by performance of said request step in a case where the plural printers are present in the printing system.

Claim 50 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium which stores a control program for printing system which includes at least one of a plurality of printers including a printer having a print unit for performing a print process on a print job and plural sheet storage units, said program comprising:

code for a request input step, of inputting a request of storage unit specifying information for enabling a user to specify the sheet storage unit used for a designated print job, designated based on a user's operation, the request being issued according to an instruction from the user; and

code for a response output step, of outputting the storage unit specifying information to be notified to the user and corresponding to the designated print job, when the request data is input in said request input step,

wherein said response output step includes enabling output of information including information by which the user can discriminate which sheet storage unit of which printer is used for the designated print job, when the request data is input in said request input step in a case where the plural printers are present in the printing system.

Claim 51 (canceled)